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Drying botanical specimens in sand.—This mode of drying specimens can not be called new, but, so far as I know, it is little practiced. Sometimes a botanist needs a faithful drawing of a plant as a whole, or in part. Perhaps he is too busy to make it at once, and may not have time to do it until the season of the plant is past. An herbarium specimen is not a satisfactory object for his purpose, and yet sometimes he must make it do. In the average case of this kind, the unfortunate victim of circumstances will find a sand-dried specimen to be as good for his purpose as the living plant. Suppose one wants to make a drawing of *Eurotia caspitosa* Nutt., and can not find time for the work until the plant has been out of bloom a month. By faithfully following the directions offered he will have just what he needs: Take a tin can, or other vessel large enough to hold the specimen without cramping in the least degree. Place the specimen in the vessel in a natural position. Carefully sift into the vessel very fine, clean sand, previously warmed in an oven. Gently tap the outside of the can from time to time, in order to settle the sand slowly and evenly about the specimen. Sift in the sand until the specimen is completely covered. When this is done properly, every leaf is buried in its natural shape; even the delicate stamens and the more delicate petals are packed in the exact position in which they were developed. In removing the sand, after the specimen is dry, which takes from six hours to a week, according to its nature, great care must be exercised so as not to break the more fragile parts of the plant. To do the work nicely one should have a can made for the purpose. This need causes me to suggest the following device, which answers well. The size of this vessel will depend upon the individual requirements of the owner. It consists of a can with a funnel-shaped bottom, having the aperture closed with a screw-cap. It may be conveniently supported in a wooden frame. This is a simple contrivance and not expensive. If one so desires, a rubber tube may be attached to the outlet at the bottom, through which the sand may be run into some convenient receptacle and saved for future use.

Specimens dried by this method are not nearly so brittle as pressed ones; they retain their colors perfectly, as a usual thing, but they can not be recommended for the herbarium, because they take up too much valuable space.—F. W. ANDERSON, *Great Falls, Mont.*

EDITORIAL.

THE DISCUSSION concerning botanical nomenclature is now fairly on and can do no harm. Mr. Britten, in the *Journal of Botany* (Sept.), has written at some length concerning "recent tendencies in American botanical nomenclature," taking for his text the recently published catalogue of New York plants, and, in the main, protesting against the proposed changes. Mr. E. E. Sterns, in the *Bulletin of the Torrey Club* (Sept.), puts very clearly the views of those advocating reform in nomenclature,